

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2010

7.00 PM

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall

AGENDA

Page No

SPEAKING SCHEME

Members of the public can ask questions to the presenting officers. To do this, please email a request to Alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk at least three working days before the meeting with your question(s) so that the Chairman is aware of your request.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declaration of Interest**

At this point Members must declare whether they have an interest, whether personal or prejudicial, in any of the items on the agenda. Members must also declare if they are subject to their party group whip in relation to any items under consideration.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1 - 6

4. **Recommendations**

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An update on recommendations made at the last meeting.

OPERATIONAL ITEMS

5. **Children's and Youth Centre provision**

13 - 20

To scrutinise the provision of Children's and Youth Centres in rural areas.

STRATEGIC ITEMS

6. **Climate Change - rural actions**

21 - 22

To scrutinise Council actions in tackling climate change and the role rural communities can and should play.

7. **Forward Plan**

23 - 24

8. Work Program

25 - 26

9. Date of the next Meeting

The next meeting to be held on Monday 22 March 2010.

Committee Members:

Councillors: D Over (Chairman), G Nawaz (Vice-Chairman), M Collins, R Dobbs, D Harrington, B Rush and W Trueman

Substitutes: Councillors: L Gilbert, J A Fox and D Fower

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Alex Daynes on telephone 01733 452447 or by email – alexander.daynes@peteborough.gov.uk

Emergency Evacuation Procedure – Outside Normal Office Hours

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There is an induction hearing loop system available in all meeting rooms. Some of the systems are infra-red operated, if you wish to use this system then please contact Alex Daynes on 01733 452447 as soon as possible.



Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities held at the Cedar Centre Hall - Cedar Centre, Castor on 23 November 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors D Over (Chairman), G Nawaz (Vice-Chairman), M Collins, R Dobbs, D Harrington, B Rush and W Trueman

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Jenny Horsfield, Lawyer - Property
Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer
Mike Heath, Commercial Services Director
Jack Eagle, Transport Planning Officer
Nicola Francis, Acting Travelchoice Team Manager
Alison Ivatt, Team Leader - Environmental Enforcement
Barry Kirk, Transportation and Development Group Manager
Jonathan Lewis, Assistant Director - Resources
Teresa Wood, Group Manager - Transport & Sustainable Environment

GUEST PRESENT:

George Scott, Chairman – Spalding and Peterborough Transport Forum

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were given.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Response to recommendations

Members received the responses to recommendations from the meeting held on 5 October 2009. Members raised concern over the response given to recommendations regarding Traffic Mitigation.

The Commission repeated the recommendation that the Traffic Manager and also the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Housing and Community Development implement a 20mph speed limit outside all rural Primary Schools. This was to be implemented before the government's Road Safety Strategy to 2020 was published. If this was not possible, the Commission requested that the Cabinet Member attend the meeting and explain why.

Members received additional information following the recommendations made at the meeting held on 27 July 2009 regarding support for rural businesses. The Commission

requested that more information be provided on what measures were available to support rural businesses such as vocational training for rural style jobs.

5. Fly Tipping

The commission received a report on the impact of fly tipping and the Council's actions to tackle it within the rural areas of Peterborough and to allow opportunity for these actions to be scrutinised.

The commission was requested to:

1. Scrutinise the methods the councils has adopted in tackling fly tipping
2. Recommend continuation of enforcement actions and
3. Provide recommendations for other methods or approaches which may improve the situation
4. Recommend more efficient and effective ways to ensure a greater impact is had.

The commission received fly tipping data from the previous 8 months and was advised how the changing demography of Peterborough affected the incidents of fly tipping in the authority's boundary.

Questions were raised and responses given including:

- Officers send out and give talks to many agencies about fly tipping and alternative waste sites.
- Emphasis is also on reducing waste altogether rather than directing everything to landfill. Special collections can be costly depending on the type of waste disposed of.
- The cost of covert surveillance included equipment and a full time operative over several weekends.
- Magistrates determine the costs to be recovered from prosecutions.
- A Duty of Care charge was easier to prove than the greater offence of fly tipping.
- A commercial waste site was located next to the Household site near Dogsthorpe.
- The Council will charge to remove waste from private land but the landowner must report/request this.
- Incidents of fly tipping must be reported to build up a convincing portfolio for prosecutions.
- The cost of a village skip could be born by Parish Councils although the council was trying to reduce overall waste.

The commission **AGREED** the following:

1. Recommend the continuation of enforcement actions.
2. Recommend the continuation of education for businesses.
3. Recommend liaison with and education for Parish Councils.

6. Cycle Routes

Members received a report on the Council's actions to provide cycling opportunities to rural areas including opportunities to encourage cycling between villages and to schools, improve cycleways, cycle stands and options for re-charging points for electric bikes. The commission was requested to:

1. Scrutinise the options provided by Travelchoice for cycling.
2. Recommend Travelchoice develop an action plan for rural areas.
3. Recommend Travelchoice collate ideas for larger infrastructure improvements (e.g. route enhancements etc) and provide to Transportation and Development for inclusion in Long Term Transport Strategy.

4. Receive a further report on the wider Travelchoice project results be provided in January 2010.

Members were advised that the Travel Choice scheme had originally been funded for the urban area of Peterborough but now had funding to provide sustainable travel options for the whole authority area.

Questions were asked and responses given including:

- Only the Primary Cycle Network (routes into the city centre) is maintained by Peterborough City Council, not the Green Wheel, some highways maintenance money is also used for this.
- Some sections of the Green Wheel were shared space i.e. on roads used by other vehicles.
- A Travel Choice mascot (Carloss) does visit schools and discounts for cycle lights have been negotiated with several bike shops throughout the city.
- Preference was to provide segregated routes so pedestrians and cyclists were separated but this was not always possible.
- The charge for the cycle maps includes regular printing showing updates and amendments – a rural cycle guide would be available in the Spring of 2010.
- Funding was available to install cycle parking but only in public spaces. Private organisations could apply for a business grant for this.
- There was no cycle hire option in Peterborough yet.

The commission **AGREED** the following:

1. Recommend Travelchoice develop an action plan for rural areas.
2. Recommend Travelchoice collate ideas for larger infrastructure improvements (e.g. route enhancements etc) and provide to Transportation and Development for inclusion in Long Term Transport Strategy.
3. Receive a further report on the wider Travelchoice project results be provided in January 2010 (to be received in information bulletin).

7. Rail Links

The commission received a report on Council actions and efforts to increase rail provision in rural areas. The commission was requested to scrutinise the report and recommend ways to improve and increase activity to achieve greater rail provision.

Members were advised that recent years had seen the emphasis on rail provision focused on the station in the city centre. Efforts had been made to improve access to the station including altering bus routes. However, the establishment of a suburban rail station would be considered over a rural station. The commission was advised that provision of an extra stop/station would also be dependent on rail providers supporting an extra stop.

Questions were asked and responses given including:

- A park and ride system to the station from the Werrington area had been considered.
- Improvements at Walton junction would increase stopping options for more trains.
- The Local Transport Plan 3 did not identify rail travel as a high priority
- Data on the origins of travellers could be gathered to determine where journeys are starting from.

The Chairman of the Spalding and Peterborough Transport Forum, George Scott, addressed the commission to advise members on its efforts to increase rail provision along the Spalding

to Peterborough line. The commission were asked to consider the effect on Peterborough of growth from the towns outside Peterborough's area (Stamford, Spalding, Whittlesey etc) with Peterborough providing a focus for shopping and business and whether Peterborough desired their trade. Members were advised on the difficulties faced in trying to establish a new train stop at Littleworth and the time and funds needed to progress plans; ultimately, train companies needed to be convinced of the need.

The commission **AGREED** the following:

1. Support the development of increased rail connections for Peterborough
2. Recommend the Transportation and Development Group Manager develop closer links with Spalding and Peterborough Transport Forum.

8. School Admissions in rural areas

The commission received a report advising it of the Council's approach and efforts to ensure rural school places are maintained and of any successes or obstacles experienced. Members were requested to:

1. Scrutinise the report.
2. Request further information if appropriate.
3. Recommend further actions if appropriate.

The commission was assured that the Council sought to offer and provide local school places for local children. Rural schools in Peterborough were popular and therefore the national trend of closing rural schools was not experienced in Peterborough. Members were advised that national legislation prohibited the reservation of places for local children and available school places could be allocated to children outside the schools catchment area after following admission criteria to rank each child's application.

Members were further advised that the urban Peterborough schools were experiencing high applications for relatively few places and as the DCSF regarded the overall number of school places for the Authority, funding was not available to increase urban places as rural schools were not all full.

Questions were asked and responses given including:

- Any effect of a closure to the Wittering air base would be considered at the time as there was a local community attending the school.
- Applications for places can be made online and on paper.
- Acceptance of first choice school places was in line with national averages.
- Some schools have flexibility in determining the admission criteria they will apply.
- Arthur Mellows Village College's catchment (set by Council) included all rural areas even if other urban secondary school were closer.

The commission **AGREED** the following:

1. To note the report.

9. Forward Plan

The commission received the latest version of the Forward Plan and was asked to identify any items that the committee wished to consider at a future meeting.

Members identified the Older People's Accommodation Strategy, the Culture Trust and the Refreshed LAA for consideration at a future meeting.

10. Work Program

The commission reviewed the current work programme and agreed the future agenda plans.

Members raised concerns over the location of meetings outside the Town Hall and agreed that future meetings remain at the Town Hall.

11. Date of the next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 25 January 2009.

CHAIRMAN
7.00 - 8.50 pm

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SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 4
25 January 2010	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Report Author – Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer

Contact Details – (01733) 452447 or email Alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMISSION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Commission of the responses to recommendations made at previous meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Commission consider the responses to the recommendations made and agree if, and how, the implementation of the recommendations will be monitored.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 During the Commission's meeting on 23 November 2009, a number of recommendations were made following consideration of reports on Traffic Mitigation, Fly Tipping, Cycle Routes and Rail Links.
- 3.2 The recommendations were subsequently submitted to the Traffic Manager and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development, Senior Enforcement Officer, Travel Choice Manager and Transportation and Development Group Manager with a request that responses were received by 11 January 2010.
- 3.3 A copy of the recommendations made and the responses are attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Further responses to questions from the Travel Choice Manager and the Traffic Manager are listed below:

Is it legal for under 16's to ride electric bikes?

Chief Inspector Steve Welby (Safer Peterborough Partnership Strategy Manager) referred the matter to Brian Hayward from the Collision Enquiry Unit. He believes electric bikes are treated as normal bicycles and therefore it would be legal for children to ride them on a road. This is providing it is genuinely an electric bike and not some form of mini moped (which would have to have an internal combustion engine). The rules related to cycles would apply so the bike would need to be the appropriate size etc for the child, with reflector and obviously lights at night. I hope this provides sufficient detail.

Who maintains the Green Wheel?

The recent resurfacing work has been carried out by the city council's Natural Networks team, who liaised with the Council's Highways engineers and Ringways who carried out the works. We have requested information about the recent resurfacing described as a 'cowboy job' and will update the Commission once we have further information. At present, Travelchoice and Natural Networks are reviewing the locations and use of barriers on the Green Wheel and where appropriate replace with bollards to enable cyclists with trailers, double pushchairs and hand cyclists to use the routes whilst preventing/discouraging the use of motorcycles/cars.

Cars travel in excess of 60mph north Willow Drove, Corporation Bank to Peakirk. Who is

responsible and what can be done? For shared spaces who decides who has priority?

Willow Drove is adopted highway and thus the police would be able to enforce against speeding vehicles. There are two possible actions that could be taken to raise the awareness of motorists to the presence of pedestrians and cyclists:

- One would be to erect “Pedestrian in Road” warning signs with a subplate indicating the distance over which the signs applies. (There are no similar signs for cyclists as they should be on the road rather than the footway if one was present)
- The second would be to consider the use of “Quiet Lane” designation which indicates to motorists that other road users are likely to be in the road and that they should drive accordingly. Such designation requires a statutory consultation process to be followed prior to any implementation, which I would need to explore further before confirming its suitability.

Other information:

- The rural area guides are due to be printed and will be delivered in two weeks time. These will be made available from the Destination Centre, the Travelchoice Centre and the usual Travelchoice outlets. Ideas are welcomed for additional locations to stock both the free rural guide maps and the Peterborough Cycle Map (which retails at £1.50, cost price £1.00) particularly in the rural areas.
- The three Interchange Information posters mentioned are complete and are scheduled to be mounted to bus stops at Castor, Ailsworth and Glinton early in the New Year.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the responses and agree if, and how, the implementation of the recommendations will be monitored.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any implications are contained within the individual responses to the recommendations.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities held on 23 November 2009

7. APPENDICES

1. Recommendations List.
2. Travel Choice Rural Area Action Plan.

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES
23 NOVEMBER 2009**

Item	Recommendations	Response requested by 11 January 2009
Traffic Mitigation	Recommends the Traffic Manager and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development impose a 20mph speed limit outside rural Primary Schools ahead of receipt of the Government's Road Safety Strategy to 2020.	I (Peter Tebb, Traffic Manager in consultation with my Cabinet Member) am able to report that officers will commence the requisite statutory process to implement the desired 20mph speed limits outside the rural primary schools in January 2010. It is therefore anticipated that the new speed limits would be implemented in late March 2010.
Fly Tipping	Recommends the continuation of enforcement actions.	Improved level of front line officers, more enforcement actions have therefore been undertaken. Working group through the solution centre is still ongoing, last meeting was 8 January 2010.
	Recommends the continuation of education for businesses.	Keep Britain Tidy business education packs have been received, which will soon be distributed to businesses. Ongoing educational visits are taking place with businesses in line with Duty of Care procedures.
	Recommends liaison with and education for Parish Councils.	Parish Council Liaison meetings to be attended, this is to be arranged.
Cycle Routes	Recommends Travelchoice develop an action plan for rural areas.	See attached.
	Recommends Travelchoice collate ideas for larger infrastructure improvements (e.g. route enhancements etc) and provide to Transport and Development for inclusion in Long Term Transport Strategy.	See attached.
Rail Links	Recommend the Transportation and Development Group Manager develop closer links with Spalding and Peterborough Transport Forum.	I am confirm that I am now in contact with George Scott from the Spalding and Peterborough Transport Forum and I am going to attend a Rural Action Zones meeting in Spalding that George Scott invited Peterborough City

Item	Recommendations	Response requested by 11 January 2009
		<p>Council to.</p> <p>We shall keep the Spalding and Peterborough Transport Forum updated with any information we receive from Network Rail regarding the Spalding Peterborough GN/GE joint line upgrade. – Jack Eagle, Transport Planning Officer.</p> <p>Transportation and Development Group has agreed with the Spalding and Peterborough Transport Forum to attend the 6 monthly meeting with East Coast and other stakeholders in Peterborough. This meeting will be arranged with Neil Smith of East Coast.</p> <p>Transportation and Development Group has been invited to attend the Rural Action Zones meeting to be held in Spalding on the 10 February by the Spalding and Peterborough Transport Forum. An officer from the Transportation and Development Group shall attend this meeting.</p>

RURAL AREA TRAVELCHOICE ACTION PLAN

The actions listed below fall within the remit of the Travelchoice Team to deliver. This document is evolving and will be updated throughout the year.

Action	Who responsible?	Target start date	Progress, RAYG	Target end date	Measure	Status Active or Complete	Comments/notes
Disseminate rural areas guide maps to rural locations. Raise awareness of availability by issuing press release and making contact with rural locations.	Travel Information Officer	Jan-10		Feb-10	Number of area guides given out by April 2010 (when reprint needed)	Active	Guides due to be printed w/c 4 Jan and will be delivered just after. Ideas for locations welcomed.
Raise awareness of Cycle Map. Encourage local village stores/pubs to stock map (bulk orders for 10 maps or more can be made for £1.00 each and sold at £1.50).	Sustainable Travel Officer	Mar-10		Aug-10	Number of new outlets selling cycle map	Active	
Finalise, print and deliver rural cycle guides and develop a listy of outlets to stock them (all will be available free of charge).	Sustainable Travel Officer	Feb-10		Apr-10	feedback received, demand from outlets to stock them.	Active	Routes determined, leaflets planned and underway. Cycle City Guides have been commissioned to work on them. We will print and launch to coincide with the better weather.
Raise awareness of www.carsharepeterborough.com (including the taxi share scheme)	Travel Information Officer	Dec-09		Dec-10	Number of new registrations from rural areas	Active	
Assess demand for cycle parking and prioritise requests. Put suggested locations into the scoring system to assess demand and will implement those that score the highest.	Sustainable Travel Officer	Feb-10		May-10	Number of applications meeting the minimum requirements according to the scoring process	Active	
Install cycle parking where appropriate. Ensure cycle parking is in keeping with local surroundings.	Sustainable Travel Officer and Engineering	Apr-10		Mar-11	number of cycle stands installed.	Active	
Investigate potential for introducing electric inter-village pool bikes. Assess what is needed and scope options for delivery	Sustainable Travel Officer	Feb-10		Jun-10	tha	Active	Whilst scoping can take place now, implementation won't be until we have a new Sustainable Travel Officer in post.
Recruit cycling village champions	Sustainable Travel Officer	Mar-10		Sep-10	number of people volunteering	Active	
Determine suitable locations for rural RTP1	Passenger Transport Development	Feb-10		Sep-10	Number of suitable locations and screens installed.	Active	
Develop ideas to help the older generation access/read bus timetables. Many are unable to use the internet and often struggle to read the printed versions. Investigate how we can raise awareness of Traveline which provides timetable information over the telephone.	Travel Information Officer	Feb-10		Sep-10	Feedback from residents	Active	
Green tourism - develop ideas about how we can work with the local tourist attractions to raise awareness of how to get to local places of interest without the car? Initially meet with Gill to determine potential for linking up to promote heritage sites. Also explore opportunities for local, green tourism with Tourist Information - could embark on a similar campaign to Worcester - Stay Local for a Great Day out!	Travel Information Officer and Sustainable Travel Officer	Feb-10		Sep-10	tha	Active	As above, scoping can take place now but full implementation won't be until the Sustainable Travel Officer post is filled.
Disseminate information about Travelchoice services (e.g. good going, TaxiGo etc) to rural communities via residents newsletters, publications and notice boards in community centres)	Travel Information Officer	Feb-10		Dec-10	Number of times Travelchoice featured in local publications	Active	
Continue to work with schools in rural areas, ensure they have travel plans and encourage uptake of Walk/Bike to School Week, Walking Buses and Park and Stride.	School Travel Officer/School Travel Plan Coordinator	Jan-10		Mar-10	IN 198 - percentage of children travelling to school by sustainable modes	Active	
Promote measures to reduce the need to travel - such as internet shopping.	Travel Information Officer	Jan-10		Apr-10		Active	
Research into funding opportunities for electric charging points.	Travelchoice Team Manager	Jan-10		Aug-10	Plugged in Places is a new grant up to the value of £30m between 10-12 sites. To apply we'd need a robust bid plus match funding.	Active	
Identify routes that are well used during the day but dark and unattractive at dusk/dark that could benefit from route branding (solar studs)?	Sustainable Travel Officer	Apr-10		Mar-10		Active	

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SCRUTINY COMMISSION RURAL FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 5
25 January 2010	Public Report

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report Author – Chris Fisher, Head of Service Children and Families (0-13)
Contact Details - 01733 863903, chris.fisher@peterborough.gov.uk

Ensuring that children and young people living in rural communities within Peterborough achieve success and that all of their Every Child Matters outcomes improve.

1. PURPOSE

This report is to allow the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities to scrutinise how Children's Services are being transformed and the impact that new ways of working and delivering services will have on children and young people in rural communities in Peterborough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the commission scrutinises the progress in developing services for children, young people and families in rural areas and to make further recommendations to develop these services.

3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Ensuring that the right services are provided in the right place for people living in rural communities is fundamental to the Corporate Plan, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. The particular needs of rural communities need to be recognised and services tailored to these needs.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities requested a report on the provision of services to children and young people in the rural areas of the city and the impact of these services on outcomes. Children's Services is the lead council department for the provision of these services. Services to children and young people can be grouped into three main categories:

- **Universal** provision that is offered and available to **all** children and young people for example schools, early years settings and children's centres.
- **Targeted** and preventative services that are focussed on areas or groups of children who, without early intervention and preventative services, are likely to have poor outcomes. This includes the play centres and targeted youth support.
- **Specialist** Services which are focussed on children with **complex** and high level of needs including the Youth Offending Service and Children's Social Care.

- 4.2 Children’s Services is currently undergoing a major transformation programme designed to improve the delivery of services to children, young people and their families and improved Every Child Matters outcomes. This transformation programme is called ‘Delivering through Localities’ and the proposals are out for consultation currently. The planned new way of working in Children’s Services involves delivering services directly to children, young people and families where they live and/or go to school. To ensure that services are directed to local people, the city is divided into three localities: 1) The South; 2) Central and East and; 3) The North-West and Rural area – these localities are coterminous with both Neighbourhood Investment and Police areas so that support for families and neighbourhoods is maximised.
- 4.3 Children’s Services have reviewed their service delivery and are proposing to realign their work so that teams may be more sensitive and responsive to the needs of communities. For example, some Children’s Services teams may now be physically based in the North-West and Rural locality (locality-based); some teams will change the way they operate by focusing more on the needs of that particular locality (locality-faced). Alongside this work a number of teams will link together to form ‘natural alliances’ in order to sharpen support for children and young people. For example there will be integrated teams for children with disabilities, children in need, children in care, 14-19 education and youth services, early years and children’s centres and alternative learning provision.
- 4.4 This way of working will ensure that services meet the needs of rural communities more effectively. An important element of the ‘Delivering through Localities’ project is to ensure that schools across the city have swift and easy access to services and resources. The North-West and Rural locality will consist of four clusters of schools including primary, special and secondary schools: the Jack Hunt Cluster, the Voyager Cluster, the Werrington Cluster and the Rural Cluster. Children’s Services recognise the role of Headteachers and chairs of governors as leaders of Children’s Services and the role of schools as central to improving all Every Child Matters outcomes.

5. KEY ISSUES

The overarching Children’s Services priority is to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people across the city and to narrow the gap between those achieving the best and the worst outcomes. Educational attainment is a key outcome for Children’s Services and very indicative of a successful partnership between Children’s Services, local schools and the local community in working together to support children and young people. The data within this report indicates that children and young people in the North-West and Rural area are doing well.

5.1 EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN RURAL WARDS

National Indicator 72 records achievement across the Early Years Foundation Stage in Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) and Communication and Language and Literacy (CLLD). This assessment takes place in Reception Classes when children are 5 years old. There are currently 2240 children in reception classes with 11% living in the rural wards (223 children).

	National	Peterborough	Rural Wards	Non rural wards
NI072	52%	47.3%	69.5%	44.6%

Table shows child achievement in the Early Years Foundation Stage of at least 78 points with at least a score of 6 in each of the scales in CLLD and PSED.

- 5.1.1 In terms of narrowing the gap, of the 223 children living in the rural wards, 9.9% are in the poorest achieving 20% cohort of the city, this compares with 21.9% for the rest of the city.
- 5.1.2 Outcomes at Key Stage 2 (Year 6 in primary schools when children are 10/11 years old) in the rural areas also exceeds both Peterborough and national averages as shown overpage:

Key Stage 2 - % achieving level 4+ in English & Maths

WARD	Average Cohort	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Barnack	28	96.8	96.2	85.3	85.2	90.0
Eye and Thorney	67	81.5	65.8	78.9	76.1	78.6
Glington and Wittering	74	77.8	86.1	79.0	83.3	87.7
Newborough	25	68.0	67.7	80.0	81.0	76.7
Northborough	25	87.1	66.7	83.3	77.3	82.6
Rural Average	219	81.3	76.9	80.4	80.4	83.4
Peterborough Average	2174	65.9	67.5	68.4	69.4	68.9
National Average		69	70	71	73	72

This difference in educational outcomes has been maintained over the last few years as shown below:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Rural Average	81.3	76.9	80.4	80.4	83.4
Peterborough Average	65.9	67.5	68.4	69.4	68.9
National Average	69.0	70.0	71.0	73.0	72.0

The table below shows the GCSE results for the rural wards:

GCSE - % achieving 5+ A*-C including English & Maths

WARD	Average Cohort	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Barnack	23	59.1	75.0	79.2	60.0	69.6
Eye and Thorney	48	37.5	44.0	47.2	40.0	63.8
Glington and Wittering	64	63.3	61.6	64.2	56.1	65.1
Newborough	33	69.4	46.7	40.5	62.1	60.6
Northborough	20	61.5	62.5	70.0	58.8	52.6
Rural Average	188	57.1	56.2	58.2	53.8	63.2
Peterborough Average	2216	38.8	39.2	37.7	37.1	40.0
National Average		45	46	46	48	50

Again, the trend is that children and young people from rural areas do better in Peterborough:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Rural Average	57.1	56.2	58.2	53.8	63.2
Peterborough Average	38.8	39.2	37.7	37.1	40.0
National Average	44.9	45.8	46.3	47.6	49.7

Other indicators that impact on families and support the narrowing of the gap for vulnerable children and young people also indicate that rural areas are doing relatively well. Rural wards have the second highest average weekly household income, the lowest rate of unemployment (2.7% compared to the city average of 5.4%) and the lowest % of children (0-15) who are dependent on workless benefits (9% city average 24%).

5.2 RURAL SERVICES

5.2.1 Children's Centres

Children's Centres are funded through the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Their purpose is to provide the best start to life for children and they are focused on parents with children who are under 5 years old. The core offer provided from Children's Centres is to provide:

- access to health services
- family support
- play and learning opportunities
- good links with job centre plus.

5.2.2 The average number of children expected to be supported by a Children's Centre is 800 and services delivered at Children's Centres are expected to include health visiting, midwifery, and family support.

5.2.3 The target for the city of Peterborough is 15 Children's Centres. In the rural area, there will be two Children's Centres; East Rural Children's Centre, supporting Eye and Duke of Bedford catchment areas, and West Rural, which will be based at and run by Wittering Primary School.

5.2.4 The East Rural Children's Centre is progressing well and is on target to be completed by April 2010. The buildings will re-house existing after-school childcare provision at both schools, as well as the Eye Pre-School, in addition to being used by the Children's Centre staff team. The team is currently delivering groups for children under 5 years of age at the Eye Youth Club building and in the Bull Hotel, Newborough, on a weekly basis, as well as a childminder group at Eye. A family support worker from the Children's Centre provides additional support to parents at the health visitor clinics in each village. From January 2010 baby massage will be available at each village on a rolling basis, for 3 weeks at a time. Parents who are deemed at a higher risk of post-natal depression and isolation will be given priority by the nursery nurse working in the area. The process to recruit a coordinator for this team has been started with the new Children's Services management structure being implemented from April 2010.

5.2.5 Management of the West Rural Children's Centre has now been transferred to Wittering Primary School. An Advisory Board is being established and plans for capital development and the employment of a coordinator are progressing well. There is currently a group for children under 5 years of age, delivered from the primary school, and previously from the community centre at RAF Wittering, where good links have been established with welfare staff. Family support and outreach is currently provided in the same manner and by the same staff as in East Rural, also incorporating the local health visitor clinic.

5.2.6 Early Years & Childcare Provision in the rural areas:

There are a number of pre-schools and nursery providers within the rural communities to allow parents to access childcare to meet working parents' needs and/or solely the 15 hours funded element which each child is entitled to from the term following their 3rd birthday.

5.2.7 Pre-School providers in the rural areas which operate term time only are:

- Barnack Pre-School
- Castor & Ailsworth Pre-School
- Eye Pre-School
- Flying Start Pre-School, Wittering
- Glinton Pre-School
- Helpston Playhouse & Under 5s
- Newborough Pre-School
- Sunflower Seeds Pre-School, Northborough
- Thorney Pre-School

- 5.2.8 There are also full day care providers which offer care all the year round from 8am – 6pm to meet the needs of working parents:
- First Steps Nursery, Maxey
 - Flying Start Daycare, Wittering
 - Rugrats, Wittering
 - Smiley Faces Day Nursery, Thorney
 - The Teddy Bears Inn Day Nursery, Newborough
 - Toddlers Inn Day Nursery, Eye
- 5.2.9 The Childcare Sufficiency update undertaken in April 2009 showed occupancy of 0-5 childcare provision in the rural area is below the city average, at 60%, compared to the city average of 71%. Sustainability remains a constant threat though to rural providers due to changing cohorts and catchment areas of children.
- 5.2.10 Extended Schools**
- By September 2010, Peterborough City Council has a target that 100% of its schools are extended schools. The core offer for extended schools is to provide:
- Pre-and after school care (if it is economically feasible), the school should provide childcare from 8am to 6pm for 48 weeks of the year
 - Rich and varied menu of activities
 - Parenting support
 - Swift and easy access to services
 - Community access to adult learning
- 5.2.11 This does not mean that each individual school has to provide all of the core activities, but that there are services which they can signpost. Funding has been devolved to the rural cluster of schools to deliver this agenda.
- 5.2.12 Arthur Mellows Village College (AMVC) has now taken on the cluster coordination function, providing some staff-time for administration and monitoring purposes to the cluster of schools and providing a link to the Local Authority.
- 5.2.13 A number of after-school events have been run in the cluster over the last 12 months for pupils in years 5, 6 and 7 at AMVC, enabling younger children to meet and interact with staff and students at AMVC, as well as to participate in activities (such as science experiments, technology workshops, cooking and music activities) that they do not have the chance to participate in at the present time.
- 5.2.14 In addition, funding has been used to provide 2 late buses (leaving at 5pm) on Tuesday evenings from AMVC to the feeder villages, enabling students who are dependent upon public transport to take advantage of a range of after-school activities run at the College.
- 5.2.15 The Schools are currently developing a plan for the coming year with activities for children and young people aimed at building confidence and giving them alternative experiences in which to perform on different stages. There are also plans to look at the longer term sustainability of the bus transport.
- 5.2.16 The Schools have been using Parent Support Advisors, funded by Extended Schools, for almost 12 months (since Feb 2009). During that time, they have worked with many families referred to them by schools, and have attended school coffee mornings, transition evenings and other events, to build up relationships with parents. They are currently midway through the delivery of a behaviour management course for parents at the Duke of Bedford School in Thorney.
- 5.2.17 Finally, some small scale funding has been made available to support local projects including assistance with start-up costs for youth clubs in Castor and Glinton.

5.2.18 The Young People's Service:

Year 10 students in AMVC are provided with consistent Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) by the Universal Personal Advisor. The Targeted Activities Programme key worker has begun working one lunch time per week in the school offering additional support to students identified by the school.

5.2.19 Glinton Youth Club takes place in term time on a Tuesday evenings run by volunteers and is supported with training, advice and guidance and quality assurance systems by the Young People's Team. There is a good working relationship with the neighbourhood police team and the Police Community Support Officers visit the club regularly.

5.2.20 In terms of Community Based Youth Work, Eye & Thorney ward is a priority. Currently Eye Youth Club is run on Monday evenings (term time) at Eye Young People's Development Centre. An Eye & Thorney Community Based Youth Worker has recently been appointed and is supported by an 18hr per week Youth Support Worker. There are currently youth worker vacancies equivalent to 94hrs per week and therefore, it is not possible to expand the Eye & Thorney youth work at the moment. However, it is planned that the centre will be fully staffed by Easter 2010. Finding suitable venues in Thorney is an issue for the service.

5.2.21 Eye Youth Club has been extremely successful in gaining Youth Opportunity Funding, via Peterborough Youth Bank, to support young people's plans and ideas. The service is represented by the North-West and Rural Locality Manager at both police panels and the rural neighbourhood council.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There have been increases in resources going into the rural wards over the last couple of years. Unsurprisingly the major barriers facing the Children's Services Department in delivering services to rural areas are transport and the relatively small number of children which makes it more expensive to deliver services.

6.2 Most children and young people, living in the rural wards, are doing well and this should be recognised and celebrated. The major priority in the rural wards is to identify those children who are at risk of poor outcomes and to target resources at these vulnerable groups as early as possible.

6.3 The integrated processes framework is vital in responding to vulnerable children and young people. The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Co-ordinator for the locality will be supporting organisations across the locality in assessing the needs of children/young people where there are concerns and ensuring that there are personalised action plans for individual children and young people. This does depend on all organisations, statutory and voluntary, working together to respond to the needs of children and young people.

7. CONSULTATION

Day to day consultation with families and young people is an integral part of the service. However, no consultation has taken place in the preparation of this report.

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcome is that there will be better integration of services and that services will be organised around the individual needs of the child and young person.

9. NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 The Children's Services Department will, over the next few months, be appointing a Head of Children Locality Services. Together with the locality manager for 8-19 and the locality manager for 0-7, the post holder will have the responsibility for delivering a co-ordinated approach to Children's Services within the north-west and rural locality. All of this work will be overseen by an Assistant Director with responsibility for the children's health portfolio.
- 9.2 The Scrutiny Commission may wish to have a further report in 12 months time on the impact of this new service on outcomes for children and young people in rural areas.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Transforming Children's Services Consultation document.

11. APPENDICES

None.

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SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 6
25 January 2010	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

Contact Officer(s) – Charlotte Palmer, Climate Change Team Manager
Contact Details – 01733 453538, charlotte.palmer@peterborough.gov.uk

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RURAL AREAS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the current and future actions that can be undertaken to address the impacts Climate Change may have upon the rural communities of Peterborough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities scrutinises the current actions of the Council and provides recommendations for future initiatives.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 This area of work relates directly to the Sustainable Communities Strategy, specifically the priority to create the country's environment capital and deliver substantial and truly sustainable growth. This area of work is governed through the National Indicator set, NI 186 and NI 188. Delivery of these indicators ensures Peterborough City Council leads action with local partners and residents to ensure the city is suitably placed to deal with the inevitable consequences that climate change will bring.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2008, the UK became the first country in the world to adopt legally binding targets for CO2 reductions by passing the Climate Change Act. The UK is now committed to reducing emissions by 80% of 1990 levels by 2050. In order to drive action forward the Government introduced three National Indicators in 2008. These indicators are:

NI185 – CO2 reduction from local authority operations
NI186 – Per capita CO2 reduction
NI188 – Adapting to climate change

- 4.2 Carbon emissions in Peterborough are primarily broken down in two categories – business and commercial, transport and domestic. In order to achieve reductions the Climate Change Team have embarked upon:

- 4.3 **Your Footprint Counts** – a campaign designed to increase understanding and awareness of climate change issues, providing people with the knowledge they need to adopt behavioural change.
'Going Green' game – working with pupils at Hampton College this game was designed and distributed to all Peterborough schools and has achieved a national *Green Apple* award.
Climate Change Card Game – a pack of cards, designed specifically for Peterborough, based

on the Top Trumps theme.

Efergy Loan scheme – energy monitoring meters are available for residents to borrow from libraries across the city. The technology allows residents to see their energy usage real time and take action to reduce their overall consumption.

Heat Loss Study – in March 2009, an aerial thermal imaging study was undertaken across the urban area of Peterborough. The results were launched in October with residents being able to identify the individual heat loss value of their property via the city council website. In order to extend this service to Peterborough’s rural communities we are in the process of procuring a hand held thermal imaging camera which will be available for use upon request.

Road show events – the team attend 12 events throughout the summer months promoting the Your Footprint Counts scheme and associated initiatives.

Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme – the city council has embarked upon this scheme to ensure real reductions in CO2 are achieved. The outcome of the scheme will be a Carbon Management Action Plan detailing how the authority will achieve a 35% reduction in emissions from its own operations by 2014.

Education programme – we are currently developing an education support package to assist teachers with the delivery of climate change in the classroom and achieving Eco Schools status.

4.4 In addition to this work delivered directly by the Climate Change Team the Travelchoice team continue to work proactively to reduce emissions arising from transport.

4.5 Peterborough City Council recognises that the rural communities have an important role to play and as such we would like to consult with the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities to determine actions suitable for the rural areas of Peterborough.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Whilst considerable work has begun to raise awareness of climate change issues we understand that these may require tailoring to suit rural communities, we therefore seek input from the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report has the potential to impact Peterborough residents and businesses on a city wide scale. All action taken forward from this report and discussion will be dependent upon the allocation of suitable resources from internal or external sources.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 This is the first step of consultation with rural communities.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 To be discussed and agreed at the meeting.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
None.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None.

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 7
25 January 2010	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Report Author – Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer

Contact Details – 01733 452447 or email Alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk

FORWARD PLAN – FEBRUARY 2010 TO MAY 2010

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This is a regular report to the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities outlining the content of the Council's Forward Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The latest version of the Forward Plan will be tabled at the meeting (at the time of publishing these papers the latest Forward Plan had not been published). The Plan contains those key decisions, which the Leader of the Council believes that the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Member(s) will be making over the next four months.
- 3.2 The information in the Forward Plan provides the Committee with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these key decisions, or to request further information.
- 3.3 If the Committee wished to examine any of the key decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated within the work programme.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Details of any consultation on individual decisions are contained within the Forward Plan.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None

6. APPENDICES

None.

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**SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES
WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10**

25

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
25 January 2010 (Papers to be despatched on 15 Jan)	Children and Youth Centre (including Sure Start) To scrutinise provision of children and youth centres in rural areas. Contact Officer: Nick Fisher (Cherry Lester (13-19 yrs), Sharif Al-Rousi (0-13 yrs))	
	Play Provision To scrutinise provision of play facilities in rural areas. Contact Officer: David Denson	Moved to March meeting.
	Budget – Rural Priorities To scrutinise aspects of the budget relating to rural communities. Contact Officer: John Harrison/Steven Pilsworth	Part of Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee Agenda on 14 January 2010.
	Climate Change – rural actions To scrutinise Council actions in tackling climate change and the role rural communities can and should play. Contact Office: Charlotte Palmer	
22 March 2010 (Papers to be despatched on 12 March)	Power Provision – renewable energy generation in rural communities	
	Business, Employment and Training To scrutinise Council actions to provide and enhance business, employment and training opportunities in rural areas. Contact Officer: Leonie McCarthy	

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
	<p>Play Provision</p> <p>To scrutinise provision of play facilities in rural areas.</p> <p>Contact Officer: David Denson</p>	

The remaining topics that were identified at the briefing in June 2009 were:

Policing – traffic enforcement, local officers

Business – tourism, agriculture, country pursuits, skills

Councillors – regular meetings, effectiveness of Neighbourhood Councils.